

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Binnie called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Ratzlaff, Binnie, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, Police Chief Ken Thrailkill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – *No closed session scheduled.*

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the consent agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 10, 2010 cc

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously.

February 24, 2010 cc2

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie:

- **HCAOG:** Announced the retirement of Director Spencer Clifton and upcoming recruitment process.
- **Planning Commission:** 2 applicants have filed for the 2 vacant seats. Deadline to file is March 31. Encouraged Councilmembers to meet with applicants prior to appointment at April 14 cc meeting.
- **Coast Guard:** Attended a meeting at the McKinleyville Air Station showcasing the new Rescue 21 Communication System.

Bhardwaj:

- **Planning Commission:** Discussed Homan Subdivision proposed near College Cove and continued discussion on General Plan update.

Morgan:

- **BLM Gateway:** Announced the upcoming Nor-Cal Geo-tourism event.

Fulkerson:

- **WAVE ENERGY:** PG&E announced that the 5-year test period could be extended to 10.
- **RREDC:** Federal funding did not come through for Broadband Redundancy Connection on 101. Also discussed potential impacts of marijuana legalization on Humboldt County.
- **Rural Trinidad:** Met in Town Hall in February to discuss the proposed Homan subdivision. Meeting was well organized.

Ratzlaff:

- **RCEA:** Nothing to report.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager - Albright: Summarized staff activities report and highlighted various other accomplishments.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)

Pat Morales – Trinidad

Read a prepared statement containing various criticisms regarding a recent editorial by Councilmember Morgan published in the March 03, 2010 edition of the McKinleyville Press.

John Shelter – Eureka

Thanked the Council for assisting his organization with the “New Directions” program that aids local law enforcement and CalTrans with homeless assistance.

Glenn Saunders – Trinidad

The Council should be careful when allowing the Planning Commission to comment on projects outside the city limits. Their actions ended up on the cover of the Times-Standard. Also, the public should be notified when city officials meet with John Frame.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through February, 2010
2. Financial Status Reports for January, 2010
3. Resolution 2010-04 Approving a Funding Application to the Humboldt Area Foundation

*Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the consent agenda. **Passed 4-0-1. Fulkerson abstained.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recommended Actions for Traffic Safety Improvements on Edwards and Trinity Streets

City Manager Albright explained that at the last City Council meeting, the staff recommended proceeding with four additional traffic safety improvements on Edwards and Trinity Streets:

- Install a marked crosswalk across Trinity Street at the intersection of Trinity and Edwards Streets;
- Relocate the centerline along Edwards Street to conform to an 8-foot parking width on the north side of the street, two 11-foot traffic lanes, and a pedestrian “lane” on the south side of Edwards Street.
- Install a “fog line” at the edge of both traffic lanes on Edwards Street.
- Install a “fog line” at the edges of the traffic lanes on Trinity Street.

These improvements were in addition to those that were approved by the City Council the previous month:

- Complete the improvements to no-parking areas (red curbs) on the north side of Edwards Street;
- Support the formation of a Committee of locally concerned residents and property owners; and
- Return to the Council with the required documentation for action necessary to officially declare Edwards Street as a 20-mph zone.

Public comment included:

Pat Morales - Trinidad

A stop sign should be installed on Edwards Street at the Marine Lab. Also, the boardwalk is extremely slick and unsafe. Something should be done about this before a serious injury occurs.

Kim Tays – Trinidad

Encouraged the Council to avoid over-doing the painting, striping, and signage related to Edwards Street.

The Council thanked the City Manager for clarification, and agreed that proposed work should proceed.

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to authorize the following improvements to be implemented by staff:

- *Install a marked crosswalk across Trinity Street at the intersection of Trinity and Edwards Streets;*
- *Relocate the centerline along Edwards Street to conform to an 8-foot parking width on the north side of the street, two 11-foot traffic lanes, and a pedestrian “lane” on the south side of Edwards Street.*
- *Install a “fog line” at the edge of both traffic lanes on Edwards Street.*
- *Install a “fog line” at the edges of the traffic lanes on Trinity Street.*

Passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 2010-05 Approving a Grant Application for “Community-Based Transportation Planning” Funds
City Manager Albright explained that at the last Council meeting, discussion resulted in a request to staff to pursue an application for funding to CalTrans under the “Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant” program. The deadline for that application is April 1, 2010 for the 2010-11 funding cycle.

The City’s partner in this project is proposed to be the California Local Government Commission. The LGS has extensive experience in analyzing communities where there is a desire on the part of the local jurisdiction to integrate traffic safety, safe pedestrian facilities, and urban design. Their process is to bring to the local community experienced individuals who can transfer other experiences and design solutions to the issues facing Trinidad.

If the City Council decides to move forward with this application, it would need to commit approximately \$6,000 in cash match in next year’s budget.

Public comment included:

Richard Johnson – Scenic Drive Resident

The Rancheria recently hired the same organization to facilitate their interchange discussions. Also, the Gateway Advisory Committee has spent many years planning improvements to Main & Trinity, and construction is scheduled for 2010. Hopefully there won’t be a conflict with the current proposal.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Ratzlaff) to approve Resolution 2010-05. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Report on Citizen Complaint Regarding Land Use and Building Code Violations

City Manager Albright explained that at the last City Council meeting, Trinidad resident Pat Morales read complaint regarding several alleged violations of building or planning code violations in the City. She subsequently provided a written copy of her statement. Albright explained that Trinidad has adapted to a compliant-driven process, and assured the Council that staff does not patrol the town looking for problems.

The City Council requested that the City Manager review the complaints, research their history, and report back to the Council. The following complaints were received:

1. **COMPLAINT:** That Trinidad resident and property owner Michael Reinman did not obtain building permits when his property at 178 Parker Creek Drive was improved in 2009.

RESPONSE: Permits were issued but there was no final sign-off by the previous Building Inspector. The current Building Inspector has reviewed the files and will resolve the issue soon.

2. **COMPLAINT:** Allegation that Trinidad resident and property owner Michael Reinman continues to rent an illegal accessory dwelling unit (ADU) behind his residence at 407 Ocean Street despite documented warnings from the City that he had not corrected the violations.

RESPONSE: A formal letter has been sent by the City to Reinman regarding complaints and non-compliance. Reinman has been advised to apply to the Planning Commission for a variance to correct current land-use violations.

3. **COMPLAINT:** Allegation that Trinidad resident and property owner Mike Morgan is not properly abiding by restrictions against doing laundry at the Trinidad Bay Bed and Breakfast at 560 Edwards Street.

RESPONSE: Morgan has been advised that he is required to go back to the Planning Commission and request the condition to be changed, or comply with the current restrictions – period.

4. **COMPLAINT:** Allegation that Trinidad resident and property manager Gail Saunders is not controlling excessive parking by occupants at a vacation rental at 376 Wagner Street.

RESPONSE: Unless the vehicles are blocking someone’s driveway, there is nothing the City can do about it. It’s private property.

Council comments included:

Morgan: Requested that the City Manager send him a formal letter addressing the complaint.

Fulkerson: Appreciates the City Manager's even-handedness and presentation of the facts. Complaints should go to staff – not the Council – and the building inspector should be more involved.

Bhardwaj: Complaints should be handled based on standards, and not all need to be addressed immediately. The problems with allowing complaints to linger are: 1) they waste government money, 2) they're unfair to those of us that comply with city laws, and 3) building codes that are ignored compromise the health & safety of the community. Also encouraged Morgan to resolve his land use issues as soon as possible.

Public comment included:

Tom Odom – Trinidad

The Building Inspector should deal with complaints, not the Council.

Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad

Stop Work Orders work, and the Building Inspector should use them when necessary. Why bother with rules when no one follows them?

Adora King – Trinidad

Thanked the Council and City Manager for responding to the complaints.

No action taken. Discussion item only.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 9:10pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Stan Binnie
Mayor